appeared in the 'Indan Express' dated the 13th July, 1991 under the caption "Police traders nexus on road encroachments" in Capital;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to inquire into such illegal encroachments etc. to ascertain whether the police and civic officials in connivance with the traders have actually encouraged encroachments on busy roads in the capital; and

(c) what further steps Government would take to remove such encroachment etc., in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The contents of the report are being examined for appropriate action.

Prices of Dhara Oil

1812. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of 'Dhara' vegetable and ground nut oils have been increased thrice in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what were the prime objectives allowing N.D.D.B. to manufacture these products;

(d) whether some discussions have been held with the NDDB about pricing policy and supplies of edible oils; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps to be taken to bring down prices of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The details of Dhara price revision in the period July 1990 to June 1991 are given in the Statement. [*See* Appendix 159, Annexure No. 53]. Increases in interest rates and processing and marketing costs have necessitated these price revisions.

(c) Dhara operations are a part of NDDB's market intervention operations in edible oil and oilseeds. The retail marketing strategy of Dhara aims at rapidly moving the product through a disciplined marketing system to reach wider consumer markets. NDDB is marketing the Dhara brand of edible oils to link producers directly with consumers.

(d) and (e) The pricing and supply strategy for Dhara is a part of the overall strategy for market intervention operations approved by Government which has designated NDDB as the market intervention agency. In comparison with other brands of edible oil, Dhara is very competitively priced.

Flood relief to Orissa

1813. SHRI PRAVANT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Prime Minister after visiting ASKA flood site of Orissa on the 6th November, decided to provide fifty crores aid to flood victims for rehabilitation; and

(b) if so, whether the said amount has been provided to the State Government of Orissa, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The then Prime Minister had stated in his speech at Aska that Rs. 35 crores had already been given to the State and on the previous day, had been arranged Rs. 50 crores for Orissa Government.

(b) The State of Orissa has an annual allocation of Rs. 47.00 crores under Calamity Relief Fund of which Rs. 35.25 crores is contributed by the Central Government. Apart from releasing Rs. 35.25 crores as Central contribution to the State Calamity Relief Fund, an amount of Rs. 21.88 crores was also released in advance to the State Calamity Relief Fund during 1990-91. Thus, the Central Government had released a total amount of Rs. 57.13 crores to the State Calamity. Relief Fund to enable them to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities including floods in Ganjam District.

Introduction of high speed train between Urban centres in Andhra Pradesh

1814. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce high speed trains between urban centres in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has not received fair treatment in sanctioning of fast trains on the Shatabdi model as has been done in northern States;

(c) what are the proposals submitted by South Central Railways for new trains and super-fast trains in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways do not introduce trains State-wise. However, Secunderabad-Vijayawada section has been identified for runnnig of high speed train at an appropriate time.

(c) Proposals for new trains received from all zonal Railways including South Central Railway at the time of revision of Time Table were examined. No specific proposal is pending at present.

(d) A new train No. 7423/7424 Express between Secunderabad and Tirupati has been introduced w.e.f. 1-7-1991.

Doubling of tracks in Asansol-Damodar section

1815. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Asansol-Damodar section of South Eastern Railway required doubling of the track;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the overhead bridge consisting a section of G. T. Road needs improvement and widening; and

(c) if so, whether Government have evolved any project to that effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proopsal for construction of a new road overbridge in replacement of the existing old road over-bridge on G.T. road at Asansol is, at present, in an advanced stage of planning jointly with the State Government. The work can be taken up for execution, only after the State Government accepts the detailed estimate for the work and consents to share the cost, as per rules.

Sugar policy

1816. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the sugar policy in the near future;

(b) if so, the salient feature thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to clear new applications for cooperative and private sugar factories in Karnataka; and